

Patent Application No. 09/821,168

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 10 and 12, and add claims 13-15 as follows:

1           Claim 1. (currently amended) A method of operating a mobile agent  
2   that travels through a network of a number of computers, wherein the  
3   mobile agent is executed in a sequence of stages and wherein each stage  
4   comprises a set of places, the method comprising the following steps:  
5       executing the mobile agent in at least one of the set of places of a  
6   respective one of the stages,  
7       evaluating in which place of the respective stage the mobile agent  
8   has been executed successfully,  
9       agreeing on this place among the set of places,  
10      aborting and/or undoing any operation in connection with the mobile  
11   agent in any other place of the respective stage, and  
12      moving ~~the~~ a modified mobile agent resulting from the successful  
13   execution to the next stage.

1           Claim 2. (original)       The method of claim 1 wherein the steps are  
2   repeated for any one of the sequence of stages.

1           Claim 3. (original)       The method of claim 1 wherein the mobile  
2   agent is executed sequentially in the set of places of the respective  
3   stage, and wherein the mobile agent is not executed anymore in subsequent  
4   places after successful execution in one of the set of places and  
5   agreement on this successful execution.

1           Claim 4. (original)       The method of claim 1 wherein a decision is  
2   generated in each stage including at least one of a primary place that  
3   corresponds to the place in which the mobile agent has executed  
4   successfully, the set of places of the next stage to which the modified  
5   mobile agent is moved, and/or the resulting modified mobile agent.

1           Claim 5. (original)       The method of claim 4 wherein at least one  
2   of the primary place and/or the set of places of the next stage and/or the  
3   resulting modified mobile agent is confirmed to at least all other places  
4   of the respective stage except the primary place.

1           Claim 6. (original)       The method of claim 4 wherein at least one  
2   of the primary place and/or the set of places of the next stage and/or the  
3   resulting modified mobile agent is moved to all places of the next stage.

Patent Application No. 09/821,168

1           Claim 7. (original)       The method of claim 6 wherein the move is  
2 performed as a reliable forward function.

1           Claim 8. (original)       The method of claim 1 wherein the steps are  
2 managed by a fault-tolerance enabler (FTE) which is independent of the  
3 mobile agent.

1           Claim 9. (original)       The method of claim 8 wherein the FTE  
2 travels with the mobile agent to the set of places of the respective  
3 stage.

1           Claim 10. (currently amended) A computer program product comprising  
2 program code means for use for operating a mobile agent that travels  
3 through a network of a number of computers, wherein the mobile agent is  
4 executed in a sequence of stages and wherein each stage comprises a set of  
5 places, the computer program product comprising instructions for:  
6           executing the mobile agent in at least one of the set of places of a  
7 respective one of the stages,  
8           evaluating in which place of the respective stage the mobile agent  
9 has been executed successfully,  
10          agreeing on this place among the set of places,  
11          aborting and/or undoing any operation in connection with the mobile  
12 agent in any other place of the respective stage, and  
13          moving ~~the~~ a modified mobile agent resulting from the successful  
14 execution to the next stage.

1           Claim 11. (original)       Computer program product according to claim  
2 10, wherein the program code means is stored on a computer-readable  
3 medium.

1           Claim 12. (currently amended) A network of a number of computers in  
2 which a mobile agent is ~~travelling~~ traveling through, wherein the network  
3 comprises a sequence of stages, wherein each stage comprises a set of  
4 places, and wherein the mobile agent is executed in at least one of the  
5 set of places of a respective one of the stages, the network comprising  
6 means for evaluating in which place of the respective stage the mobile  
7 agent has been executed successfully, means for agreeing on this place  
8 among the set of places, means for aborting and/or undoing any operation  
9 in connection with the mobile agent in any other place of the respective

## Patent Application No. 09/821,168

10 stage, and means for moving the a modified mobile agent resulting from the  
11 successful execution to the next stage.

1 Claim 13. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the mobile agent is  
2 a computer program that acts autonomously on behalf of an agent owner or  
3 user and that travels through a network of a number of computers.

1 Claim 14. (new) The computer program product of claim 11, wherein  
2 the mobile agent is a computer program that acts autonomously on behalf of  
3 an agent owner or user and that travels through a network of a number of  
4 computers.

1 Claim 15. (new) The network of claim 12, wherein the mobile agent  
2 is a computer program that acts autonomously on behalf of an agent owner  
3 or user and that travels through a network of a number of computers.